



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ANITA M. FRANCO SELECTED SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2006



SANTA ANA, CA – Anita M. Franco, publisher of Fontana Herald News, has been selected *Small Business Journalist Champion of the Year 2006* by the Santa Ana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Her selection was announced by District Director J. Adalberto Quijada who said “Anita’s impact as a journalist extends beyond delivering news; it changes the lives of business owners. She is a true champion.”

Ms. Franco was nominated by Paula Bahamon, Assistant Director of the Inland Empire Women’s Business Center in San Bernardino, for her dedication, talent and timeliness in delivering news to the Fontana small business community. Her staying power proves that she embraces journalism with a passion. Ms. Franco’s professionalism and integrity are immaculate – two highly valuable qualities in a journalist.

Ms. Franco is a recognized leader in the community. She is involved with different organizations that seek to benefit businesses including minority groups. She was a founding member of the Moreno Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and served on the board and as President for four years. She was treasurer for the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Association for two years and has served as a member of the Fontana Area Chamber of Commerce and Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce among others.

Aside from being driven by her quest for new challenges and information, she is actively involved as a wife, mother of four daughters and grandmother to four grandchildren. Ms. Franco’s sense for serving sets her apart in her profession. Whether she is serving as editor for the Fontana Rotary Club or helping out at a Kiwanis Club event - life’s challenges fascinate her and she enjoys meeting new people and giving back to her community.

Ms. Franco will be honored locally at the SBA’s Small Business Award Luncheon on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at The Grove of Anaheim, CA. For further information, please call the Orange County Small Business Development Center at (714) 564-5202.

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